

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 227

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR DEMPSEY.

Read 1st time January 22, 2009, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

1142S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 578.023, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to dangerous wild animals, with penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 578.023, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 578.023, to read as follows:

578.023. 1. No person [may] **shall own, possess, or** keep any lion, tiger,
2 leopard, ocelot, jaguar, cheetah, [margay,] mountain lion, Canada lynx, bobcat,
3 [jaguarundi,] hyena, wolf, bear, nonhuman primate[, coyote, any deadly,
4 dangerous, or poisonous reptile, or any deadly or dangerous reptile over eight feet
5 long], in any place other than a properly maintained [zoological park,]:

6 (1) **Transitory** circus[.];

7 (2) **Accredited** scientific[,] or educational institution[.];

8 (3) **Accredited** research laboratory[.];

9 (4) **Permitted** veterinary hospital, as authorized by the Missouri
10 **veterinary medical board created under section 340.202, RSMo;** or
11 [animal refuge,]

12 (5) **Zoological park that is accredited by the Association of Zoos
13 and Aquariums;**

14 unless such person has registered such [animals] **animal** with the [local] **chief**
15 **law enforcement [agency in] official, or his or her designee, of the county or**
16 **city if not within a county** in which the animal is kept. **Such registration**
17 **shall be required within five days of acquiring, possessing, or moving**
18 **such an animal to a county or city not within a county. Any**
19 **registration under this section shall be required to be renewed on an**

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

20 annual basis throughout the duration of the animal's presence in such
21 location.

22 2. The chief law enforcement official in subsection 1 of this
23 section, or his or her designee, shall maintain a registry of any such
24 animals registered under this section. The registry shall be made
25 available to the public via a publicly-accessible website and shall
26 additionally be made available for disaster preparedness or for
27 emergencies. The chief law enforcement official may charge a
28 registration fee of an amount sufficient to cover the administrative
29 costs of maintaining the registry but such fee shall not exceed fifty
30 dollars for a first registration or twenty-five dollars for a renewal
31 registration. Any animal refuge that operates as a not-for-profit
32 organization under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,
33 as amended, or an equivalent law which applies to such not-for-profit
34 entity, shall be exempt from the fee under this subsection.

35 3. The registration required in this section shall include the
36 following information:

37 (1) The name, address, telephone number, and date of birth of
38 the person owning, possessing, or keeping the animal;

39 (2) A description of each animal, including the scientific name,
40 given name, sex, age, color, weight, and any distinguishing marks or
41 coloration that would aid in the identification of the animal;

42 (3) A photograph of the animal;

43 (4) The exact location where the animal is to be kept;

44 (5) The name, address, and telephone number of the person from
45 whom the applicant obtained the animal, if known;

46 (6) The microchip number or other identification number for the
47 animal;

48 (7) The name, address, and telephone number of the veterinarian
49 providing veterinary care to the animal; and

50 (8) The name, address, telephone number, and date of birth of
51 any adult person designated as a handler for the animal.

52 4. Any animal required to be registered under this section shall
53 be identifiable by microchip or other reliable animal identification
54 device or system.

55 5. No animal required to be registered under this section shall
56 be allowed to enter upon or be taken to any public property, or any

57 **commercial or retail establishment unless the owner or possessor is**
58 **bringing the animal to a licensed veterinarian or veterinary clinic. No**
59 **such animal shall be permitted to come into contact with anyone other**
60 **than the owner, possessor, a registered designated handler, or a**
61 **veterinarian administering medical examination, treatment, or care.**

62 **6.** Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a
63 class [C] A misdemeanor.

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